11/7/55

MEDICINE "RUNS" IN SOME FAMILIES

Just a little browsing around through the pages of the HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN VIGO COUNTY, by Dr. C. N. Combs, and we become thoroughly convinced that Medicine does "run" in some families. Let's take the life story of the author's own wife, for a starter.

Mrs. C. N. Combs was better known to her schoolmates as Ethel Mattox. No doubt she had her first "taste" of Medicine from her father, Dr. William Robinson Mattox, born in Orange County, Ind., Sept. 10, 1855, a son of William Mattox, farmer, and Sarah Trinkle. William and Sarah were the parents of Ernest L., Ethel, and William, Courtesy Ethel's brother, Ernest L., received his M. D. from Rush Medical College in 1905.

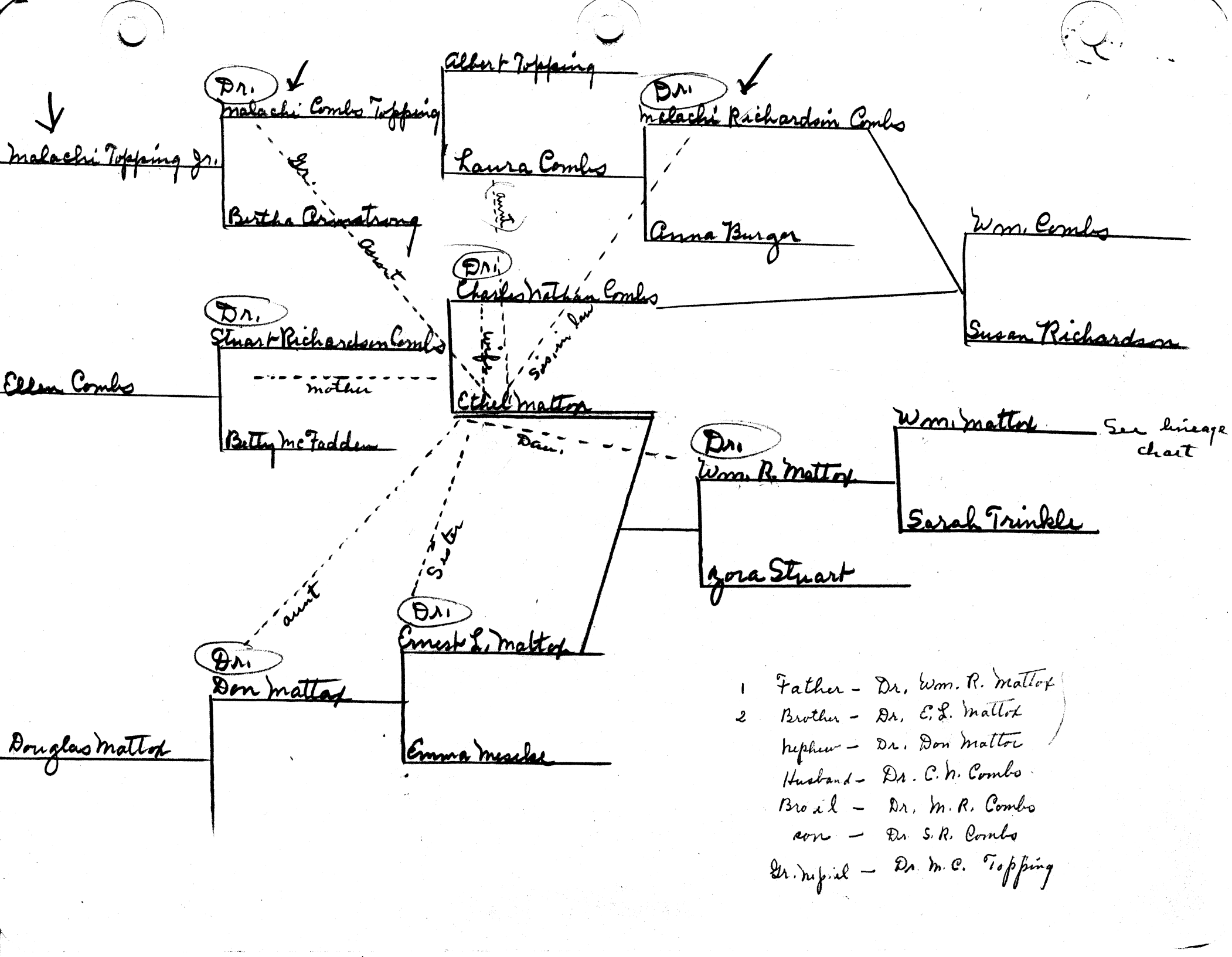
By this time the young Miss Mattox must have formed a pretty fair opinion of the Medical profession, for the next thing we know we find her married to one of its exponents, Dr. Charles Nathan himself.

As if that were not enough, she rears a son named Stuart Richardson, who takes up the profession, and along about that same time her brother's son was treading his father's footsteps, and Dr. Don Dr. is making some footprints of his own, now.

The union of Dr. and Mrs. Combs gave Mrs. Combs another set of Doctor-relatives. Her husband's brother was Dr. Malachi Richardson Combs, and Dr. Malachi had a daughter Laura who married Albert Topping, and they had a son whom we know by the name of Malachi Combs Topping.

Daughter, sister, wife, mother, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt to some of our well-known medics. Quite an interesting record, isn't ~~it~~ it? ~~(that is supposed to be a question mark.)~~

La Verne Hughes


Dr.
Malachi Combs Topping
Malachi Topping Jr.
Albert Topping
Laura Combs
Dr.
Malachi Richardson Combs
Anna Burger
Wm. Combs
Susan Richardson
Bertha Armstrong
Aunt
Dr.
Charles Nathan Combs
Dr.
Stuart Richardson Combs
Ellen Combs
mother
Betty McFadden
Ethel Mattox
Sister in law
Dau.
Dr.
Wm. R. Mattox
Wm. Mattox
See lineage chart
Sarah Trinkle
Zora Stuart
Sister
aunt
Dr.
Ernest L. Mattox
Dr.
Don Mattox
Douglas Mattox
Emma Meadows
1 Father - Dr. Wm. R. Mattox
2 Brother - Dr. E. L. Mattox
nephew - Dr. Don Mattox
Husband - Dr. C. N. Combs
Brother - Dr. M. R. Combs
son - Dr. S. R. Combs
Dr. Nuptial - Dr. M. C. Topping

Medicine "Runs" in Some Families

Just a little browsing around through the pages of the History of Medicine in Vigo County, by Dr. C. W. Combs, and we become thoroughly convinced that medicine does "run" in some families. Let's take the life story of the author's own wife, for a starter.

Mrs. C. W. Combs was better known to her school-mates as Ethel Mallot. No doubt she had her first "taste" of Medicine from her father, Dr. William Robinson Mallot, born in Orange County, Ind., (see biog.) Sept 10, 1855, a son of William Mallot, farmer, and Sarah Trinkle. Wm. and Sarah were the parents of Ernest L, Ethel, and Wm. Ethel's brother, Ernest L., received his MD from Rush Medical College in 1905.

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As if that were not enough, she rears a son who takes up the profession, and along about that same time her brother's son was treading his father's footsteps, and Don is ~~still~~ making footprints of his own, now.

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Vigo County Historical Society

Terre Haute, Indiana

PATERNAL

MATERNAL

ANCESTORS OF

Charles Nathan Combs.
B June 7 1879
R Terre Haute, Ind.

John Combs
B Nov 18, 1798
M
D Apr 17 1871
R Hamilton Ohio.

William B Combs
B Sept 22 1822
M Mar. 4. 1852.
D Nov 12 1878
R Mulberry Ind.

Jane Brown.
B Oct 1 1795
D June 30 1872

John Combs.
B July 5 1770
M
D Sept 5 1829
R Monmouth Co. N.J.

Elizabeth Bowne:
B 1776
D Jan 27 1864.

John Combs.
B M
D Sept 2 1779 R N.J.
Revol. Soldier.
B D

B M D R
B D

B M D R
B D

B M D R
B D

B M D R
B D

See Myers. Immi. of Irish Quakers

Clement Richardson.
B M D 1830 R Buck's Co. Penn.
B D

B M D R
B D

B M D R
B D

Malachi Richardson.
B Jan 28 1802
M
D 1887
R Elvaston Ill.

Susan Richardson.
B Apr 11 1832
D Nov 14 1912

James Patterson
B 1760
M 1784
D ~~1850~~ ?
R York Co. Penn.

Revol. Soldier.

Sarah Patterson.
B July 16 1804
D Apr. 13 1878

Anna Hull.
B
D

James Patterson
B Mass. M
D R
B D

B M D R
B D

B M D R
B D

B M D R
B D

Cousin of Commodore Hull of the U.S Navy. See Mrs. Brooke's Book

B=Born
M=Married
D=Died
R=Resided
Reference—On Back of Page

Combes
C10

Ref. ① Family Bible. pages removed and kept in my file.

② Traditional History of the Patterson Family
Compiled by Felix Negley. 1897. Published in Pittsburgh Pa.

③ James Patterson Revolutionary Soldier. pp. 574. 578. 688 Vol. II
Penn. Archives Sixth Series.

④ John Combs Revol. Soldier. New Jersey State Library records.

Dr.

MATTOX, ERNEST L. Born Aug. 21, 1880, at Rego, Orange County, Ind., son of W. R. Mattox, physician, and Zora Stuart. Married Emma Mesecke, 1905. Children, Mrs. Muriel Casey, Dr. Don Mattox, Mrs. Doyne Maehling. Educ. Terre Haute High School, Ind. Univ . A. B. 1902, Rush Med. Coll. M. D. 1905. Located in West Terre Haute in 1905 and in 1915 moved to Terre Haute and was associated with Dr. M. R. Combs. Memb. Vigo Co. (1905), Pres. 1917; Ind. State and A. M. A.; T. H. Acad. of Med. (1921), Pres. 1938; Esculapian Soc. (1906). Union Hospital Staff (1905), Pres. 1914. F.A.C.S. (1931). Hobby: (in later life only) fishing. Methodist. Democrat. Dr. Mattox came as near as anyone in being as he said, a "general specialist". He was proficient as a general practitioner, a surgeon, an obstetrician (delivering over 5,000 babies) and evven in the nose and throat field. However, this was accomplished at the expense of his leisure and his health. He worked incessantly for 35 years and only when his son came in the office with him did he relax and then for brief periods. He died Nov. 1, 1942 , in the Union Hospital, following an operation for intestinal obstruction. Buried in Ros lawn Cemetery.

Combs, Charles Nathan. Physician b. Mulberry Indiana June 7, 1879. S. William Bourne and Susan (Richardson) Combs. B.A. Ind. U. 1900 M.D. Med. Coll. of Ind. Indpls. 1903. m. Ethel Mallox Sept. 10. 1902. 2 sons. William Mallox Combs and Stuart Richardson Combs. (M.D.) 1 dau. Miriam Ewart Combs (Mrs. Ambrose Harrison Rubey) Practiced in Terre Haute Ind Anesthesiologist Post Grad. Harvard Med. 1916 Supt Union Hosp. Terre Haute. 1910-41. Med. Director 1941-45 Pres. Med. Staff 1921 Secy. Vigo Co. Med Soc. 1907-10. Pres. 1913 Secy. Ind. State Med. Assn. 1910-25 Pres. 1926. Memb. H. of Del. Amer. Med. Assn 1931-2 Secy. Section Anes. 1939. Aesculapian Soc. of Wabash Valley. Pres 1941 Terre Haute Acad. of Med. Pres. 1931 Mid West. Soc. of Anes. 1928 Hon. memb. Ind. Soc. of Anes. and of International Anes. Research Soc. Fellow Amer. Coll of Anes., International Coll. of Anes., Amer. Soc. of Anes. Diplomate Amer. Board of Anes. 1939. Pres. Terre Haute Symphony Soc. 19— Pres. Ind. Hosp. Assn. 1923 Director Ind. Blue Cross Servce 1946—? Editorial Bd. Journal of Ind. State Med. Assn 1933-5 1945-? Director Vigo Co. Cancer Soc. Consulting Med. Staff U.S. Penitentiary Terre Haute memb. Ind. Advisory Hosp Planning Council 1946-56 memb. T.H. Science Club, Pen and Brush Club. Rotary Club. Director and Historian, Board Terre Haute Community Theater. Hon. memb. Boy Scouts of Amer. + of Terre Haute Pub. Health Nurses Assn + High Twelve Club.

mem. Terre Haute Country Club.
Capt. Med. Corps. U.S.A. served in France with 22nd Engrs. 1918-19.
mem. Vigo Co. and Ind State Historical Socs.
Congregationalist
Author: Hist. of Med. in Vigo Co. 1818-1950.
" of The Community Theater of T.H.
" of the Ind. State Med. Assn.
" of The Aesculapian Soc. of the Wab. Valley.
Articles in Med and Hosp. Journals.

Brother to Dr. C. H. Combs.

COMBS, MALACHI RICHARDSON Born Hamilton, Ohio, November 9, 1863, son of William Combs, farmer, and Susan Richardson. Married Anna Bufger k882 and Hazel Evans 1917; one daughter, Mrs. Laura Topping Smith. Educ. Danville Ind. Normal School, attended Rush Medical College one year. Ind. Med. Coll. M. D. 1885. Located at Kentland, Ind. 1885 to 1890. Then one year in Omaha, Neb., and two years in Dallas, Tex. Came to Terre Haute in 1893 and opened a drug store at 3rd and Park. Began practice of medicine in 1896. Memb. Vigo Co. (1896), Secy 1898-04, Ice Pres. 1905, Pres. 1906 and 1920; Ind. State; Vice-Chrm. Surgical Section 1920; A. M. A.; Alternate Delegate 1921-2; Terre Haute Academy of Med. (1921), was its Pres. 1921, Secy. 1930-1; Esculapian Soc. (1900) Pres. 1923. Pres. Fifth Dist. Med. Soc. F. A. C. S. (1920); Union Hospital Staff (1900), Secy. 1901 and 1922; Pres. 1902-4. Memb. City Board of Health (1903-6); Memb. Board of Safety under Mayor Davis. Entered Army Aug. 15, 1917 as Lt. Sent to Fort McPherson, Ga. Promoted to Capt. Nov. 1917. Then to Uni . of Pa. for cours in Plastic surgery. Promoted to Major Feb. 1918. Then to Fort Benjamin Harrison as surgeon in Post Hospital. In Sept. 1918 to Camp Perry, Ohio, and then to Ft. Benning, Ga. Discharged Feb. 1919. Post grad. course N. Y. Policlinic 1895. Clubs: Elks, Mason. Was Pres of the Lions Club. Presbyterian. Democrat.

PAPERS PUBLISHED.

1. "Twilight Sleep", Proc. Esculapian Soc. 1915, Vol. V, p. 136.
2. "Ectopic Pregnancy" ibid 1916, Wol. VV, p. 326.
3. "Cholecystectomy versus Cholecystostomy", ibid 1917, WVol. WI, p 13.
4. "Empyema" ibid 1919, Vol. VVI, p. 99.
5. "Open Treatment of Fractures" ibid 1920, Wol. WI, p. 122.

Dr. Combs had a zest for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness rarely excelled. As Capt. of the uniformed Rank of K. of P. his company won first prize in a competitive drill in San Francisco in 1902. Travels: Europe in 1914 visiting clinics.

Europe in 1926 for pleasure. Around the world cruise 1928, Cuba and Canal Zone in 1920. Dr. ".R." was a versatile raconteur, always a promoter and leader in our fun-fests and entertainments. He was a friend to the young doctor and assisted the aspiring neophytes, patiently letting them go ahead until they hit deep trouble and then he would quietly finish the difficult part, wanting and claiming no credit for his share of the work. He had several major operations and serious illnesses, and finally thigh amputation for an infected knee. Died April 11, 1932 of Agranulocytosis, after a long confining sickness. Buried Highland Lawn. (8-p. 310) (12-p. 233) (11-p. 874)

HISTORY OF CLINTON COUNTY INDIANA
by Hon Joseph Claybaugh
A W Bowen & Co Indianapolis Ind 1913 p 802

WILLIAM B COMBS

William B Combs was born in Butler county Ohio September 22 1822 His father John Combs was a native of New Jersey who in 1811 moved west with his family and settled on a farm in Butler county Ohio near the city of Hamilton where the subject of this sketch was born William began working on the farm at a very early age and was engaged in the occupation of farming during his whole life In the winter seasons he attended the district school and acquired a common school education but the farm work often interfered with regular attendance even in that season

He remained on the farm helping his father until 1852 when he married Susan P Richardson of Hamilton Ohio Soon afterward he and his young wife moved to Clinton county, Indiana arriving on November 8 1852 where he purchased a farm about two miles southeast of Mulberry on which he located and remained to occupy it till his death which occurred in October 1878

He cleared his land without assistance erecting first a log cabin which was subsequently replaced by a large new residence His support was always given to the Democratic party He was always an active friend of education and benevolent enterprises and was a member of the Odd Fellows Masons and Good Templars Lodges

****

(11/4/58)

HUSBAND'S NAME Charles Nathan Combs.

When Born June 7-1879 Where Mulberry (Clinton Co.) Indiana

Christened ..... Where .....

When Died ..... Where .....

When Buried ..... Where .....

When Married Sept 10 1902 Where Terre Haute Indiana

Other Wives (if any) .....

His Father William Brown Combs His Mother's Maiden Name Susan Patterson Richardson

Charles Nathan Combs.
(Husband's Full Name)

Ethel Mattox Combs
(Wife's Maiden Name)

This information obtained from Family records.

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME Mary Ethel Mattox.

When Born Prairie Twp 13/10/82 Where Vigo Co Ind.

Christened ..... Where .....

When Died ..... Where .....

When Buried ..... Where .....

Other Husb. (if any) .....

Her Father William R. Mattox Her Mother's Maiden Name Elzora Stuart

Date 4-13-57.

Compiler C N Combs.

Address 2516 N. 9th St

City Terre Haute State Ind

Male or Female		CHILDREN (Arrange in order of birth)	WHEN BORN Day Mo. Yr.	WHERE BORN Town County	State or Country	DIED Day Mo. Yr.	MARRIED
M	1	William Mattox Combs.	30 Mar 1904	Terre Haute Vigo	Ind.		Date 1930 To Avis Hood
F	2	Miriam Ewalt Combs	16 Jan 1908	"	"		Date Nov 28 1933 To Ambrose Rubey.
M	3	Stuart Richardson Combs	1 Apr. 1911	"	"		Date June 1935 To Elizabeth McFadden
	4						Date To
	5						Date To
	6						Date To
	7						Date To
	8						Date To
	9						Date To
	10						Date To
	11						Date To
	12						Date To
	13						Date To
	14						Date To

Form F2 Use Reverse Side For Additional Information

Family Group Sheet The Everton Publishers, 518 North Main, Logan, Utah

©

MARGARET R. WATERS
Genealogical Research
20 North Bosart Avenue
INDIANAPOLIS 1, INDIANA

July 14, 1956

Dr. Charles Combs
2516 North 9th Street
Terre Haute, Indiana

Dear Dr. Combs:

I have run over your retainer, and you didn't say how much additional time I might spend. So I don't have a whole lot for you just now.

However, there are two main things which have resulted from this preliminary research.

First, I think you are not eligible for the Pioneer Society in any line. It looks as if John Combs remained in Butler Co., O. Consequently, William B. Combs could hardly have been in Clinton Co., Ind., by 1830, the eligibility date. The Richardsons were evidently still in Butler Co., O., in 1848 when Sarah died.

Second, I do have proof that your wife was descended from the Revolutionary soldier, Christopher Trinkle of Washington Co., Ind. However, many more proofs will have to be worked out as DAR requires legal proofs for every generation from the ancestor down to the applicant.

If you wish, I can get these proofs and make out your wife's three application papers. However, please do give me some idea of how far you want to go. Unless we hit snags, such proofs, affidavit, making out papers, etc., usually take about $20-$25. It is not necessary to pay in advance.

If you want me to go on, please return all my notes as I am helpless without them.

I had a job down at Paoli last Saturday and was able to iron out the ambiguous will. Also, strange coincidence, my client's ancestor, John Vandeveer of Orange Co. sold land to Nathaniel S. Mattox of Washington Co. in 1863.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Margaret R. Waters

Dr Combs - Pioneer Society

Father - William B Combs, b 1822, Butler Co., O. lived Tippecanoe Co Ind
Eligibility dates Clinton Co 1830 Tippecanoe Co 1830
Unlikely that W B C came at age 8 with his father, John Combs, since John died 1871 Hamilton, O Probably John never came to Ind so Combs line out
Mother - Susan P Richardson b 1832 Butler Co Pa. No telling if she m 1852 in Ohio or Ind But both Tippecanoe Co (1830) and Madison Co (1830) are out since she was b 1832 even if father came to Ind
So - both lines are out

****

Mrs Combs DAR

1 Valentine Mattox Suitable age to be a Rev sol Would be of N C (Tenn not formed till 1790) 1790 Census of N C - no Valentine
2 Elizabeth Coulter b 1785 Might be of the Ky Coulter fam that married into Boones Try Boone Genealogy
3 Amos Critchfield b 1800 Could be son or grandson of a Rev sol Do 1850 or 1860 census of Orange Co to see where he was b
4 Susannah Reel b 1804 could be dau or gr-dau of a Rev sol Do 1880 census of Orange Co to see where she and father were born
5 Watch for Hugh and William Stewart (Stuart) in Orange Co 1850 and 1880 to see where b
Note: is it Orange or Crawford Co 1850 census which tells exact Co where person is born? Crawford, I think

Check Orange Co hists Washington Co Hists and DAR stuff

"Roster" - DAR
John Critchfield - Switzerland Co (b N J)
Charles Stewart - Jefferson Co (Va service)
James Stewart - Floyd Co (b Va Pa service & Ky)
Christopher Trinkle - Washington Co (b Va)
This looks good. (Pension)
b ca 1751 Montgomery Co Va (b 1757 - Pioneer Soc Yr Bk noble line)
d Mar 1820 Washington Co bur Trinkle farm Stone
m Elizabeth Hickman
Chil: Elizabeth m Sampson Patton
Stephen
Polly m (1) Burris (2) Clark (3) Kester
Henry m Shellabarger
John
Fred m Sallie Hickman (these in
Adam m Hannah Rutherford Madison twp)
Jacob m Peggy Hickman

Check Patton Genealogy
Pound - Kester Gen
1820 census Washington Co
1830 " " Ages for sons
Washington Co Wills
Mrs What's Her Name's Book
(I wonder if she means Mrs Mavity's? LA)

Sarah Trinkle should be a gr-dau of Christopher Trinkle

"Rev Sol Bur in Ind" - Waters p 23 (or 38) James Stewart - Ohio Co
" " " " " " supplement - p 84 John Reel (Riel) - Gibson Co (N C service)

No dau Susanna among children but a gap between 1802 - 1808
p 93 Thomas Stewart - Monroe Co (N C service Tenn)
p 94 William Stewart - Washington Co (Pa service)
in 1826 had dau 9 sons 6 and 3 and 1½

"Washington Ind Will Abstracts 1814-1900" DAR (1953)
p 25 Jacob Trinkle Bk B pp 27-28
(wr? 10-31-1830; pr 3-10-1831
wife Margaret
ch Christopher
John
Samuel
Stephen
Jacob H
Catherine
Elizabeth
Sarah
Eliza
exex: wife Margaret & son Christopher
witz: George S Trabue, Wm Sherwood, Hugh Sherwood, John Trinkle, Jonathan Jones

p 14 Christopher Trinkle Will Rec 1 pp 252-253
wr 1-13-1829; pr 8-31- 1829
wife - none named
ch Stephen
Frederick
Jacob
Henry
ch Adam
John
dau - heirs of 2nd dau Margaret, deceased
Elizabeth
Mary
Katharine
execs: sons John and Jacob; witz: Jonathan Jones James McGrew

"Arch & Hist Survey of Washington Co Ind" Morris (1925)
p 253 Madison Twp
Simmons Burial Place: In the N E cor of the S E ¼ Sec 15, Twp 1 N, Range 2 E, graves of Christopher Trinkle, a Rev sol and his wife
p 237 Madison Twp Among early settlers: Jacob & Henry Trinkle came in 1813

"Orange Co Ind Cemetery Records" - DAR (1947)
p 401 Greenfield Twp Critchfield Family Cemetery Among earliest families in the twp. Amos entered land in SW¼ Sec 26 T S - R W in 1854 (typing error, obriously.) In 1830 he taught school. Wife was Susanna Reel. Cem. on their farm
Amos Critchfield b 6-3-1800 d 12-30-1867
Susanna Critchfield, wife of Amos, b 7-6-1804 d 11-25-1884
Rachel Stewart, wife of Hugh Stewart and daughter of A and S Critchfield, d 12-17-1863 ae 26-10-13 (b2-4-1837)
p 25 Paoli Old Town Cemetery
Henry Stewart, d 8-7-1891, ae 81 (b 1810)
b at Newton, county of Londonderry, Ireland, 3-5-1810. He and his brother William founded the village of Newton-Stewart in Jackson Twp

"Orange Co Ind Bible Records" - DAR (1944) (Real)
p 17 Samuel Critchfield Bible Son of Amos and Susan Reel Critchfield, whose children were
Samuel
Michael
Alfred
William
John
Vesta
Betsy m Isaiah Berkshire
Jane
Mary m John L Megenity
Rachel m Hugh Stewart
Henry
Critchfields were early settlers in Greenfield Twp

"Orange Co Ind Marriage & Probate Records" DAR (1943) (Has marriages 1816-1826; wills 1816-1892)
p 49 William Stewart
no date pr 6-2-1855
wife
son John
son Hugh
dau Mary, wife of John Critchfield, "ch of my present wife, and her dau Mary Jane Hutchinson." (Will have to read original will to try for better interpretation of their abstract)*
Exec: Arthur J Simpson

Came about 1838 and platted Newton-Stewart

Will Rec 2 pp 31-32 (courthouse)
My beloved wife
"her own children" * Orange Co
John, my eldest son
Hugh, my son
Mary, wife of John Critchfield
rest of my children being the children of my present wife, share and share alike including Mary Jane Hutchinson, dau of my present wife.

****

Dr

MATTOX, WILLIAM ROBINSON, Born Orange County, Ind., Sept. 10, 1855, son of William Mattox, farmer, and Sarah Trinkle. Married Zora Stuart, 1879. Children: Dr. E. L. Mattox, Mrs. Ethel M. Combs and William C. Educ. Paoli Normal. Then taught school and farmed. Kentucky School of Med. Louisville, one year. Practiced in Prairieton four years. Rush Med. Coll. M. D. 1888. Located in Youngstown for two years and was elected as coroner so he moved to Terre Haute in 1890. Memb. V igo Co. (1888), Secy. 1892, - Ice Pres. 1893, Pres. 1896; Ind. State and A. M. A .; Esculapian Soc. (1888); Union Hospital Staff (1902), Secy. 1902-6, Pres. 1908-9. Coroner 1891-5. Hobbirs: Baseball and debating. Primitive Baptist. Democrat. Dr. Mattox was a red headed impetuous dynamo with his interests divided about equally between medicine, sports, politicx and religion. He drove a spirited horse and his fa orite pastime was to entice another driver into a brisk race as he came home down So. Sixth St. He once engaged in a public religious debate with another member of his sect over a hair splitting point ih theological dogma. Being a friend of Claude Bowers (now a famous diplomat and writer but then a local newspaper reporter) the entire text of the speeches was reported in the daily paper. In 1903 he had a patient who was very ill with typhoid fever in the Union Hospital and he pup up a " no Visiting" sigh. Against the usual custom he barred even a Catholic Priest who wanted to call. The ensuing misunderstanding soon blazed into a better contro- versy with long letters from each side being printed in the papers. The argument was at first confined to the immediate trouble, but sooh embraced the grand schism between the Protestant and Catholic Churches. Dr. Mattom pushed a sharp pen and did not hesitate to dip it in caustic. On the other hand, he saw the humorous side to all situations and was a confirmed punster. He died Aug. 2, 1913, in Terre Haute, of nephritis, and is burind in Highland Lawn. In 1909 he revolted against the rotten politics in both parties and with Dr. L. P. Luckett, organized the Independent Movement with L. R. Whitney as candidate for Mayer. He put on a vigorous campaign with oratorical fireworks, but his candidate was defeated. (4-p. 854) (16-photo)

If you have ever been on the waiting list of either St Anthony's or Union Hospitals it will require no oratory to convince you that Terre Haute is short of hospital beds, and still will be after the present buildings are completed. In both hospitals we have patients that are either full charity, medically indigent, or paid for by welfare agencies. Of these, some are - 1) surgical patients, who, after their post-operative acute stage need time in bed or in a chair for further convalescence: 2) medical patients that come in for diagnosis establishment of a regimen of treatment and then need more or less prolonged continuance of the same: 3) chronic patients sent in because there is no other place to go. They will perhaps never regain their health, cannot look after themselves, but obviously cannot remain indefinitely in the hospital. 4) Patients in the terminal stages of an incurable disease who must find a bed some place to await the final exitus - which may be only days or weeks but might be months ahead.

These are the patients who occupy beds which we now need so desperately to accomodate those on our waiting lists. The minumum charge in either hospital is $9.50 per day and the welfare agencies certainly could save money if they were cared for in the County Home (but cannot now do so because it has no license.) Some of the money saved would suffice to hire a registered nurse. She could give baths, take temperatures, give enemas, administer medicines, even hypodermetically, under the direction of the county physician.

There have been some charges of neglect of county home inmates but I want to say that the county physician is handicapped at present because of the absence of trained nursing personnel who might take note of changes in the sick and warn him when he was really needed and likewise determine that the situation demanded only telephone directions and save him a needless call. A small pharmacy could be installed for dispensing the necessary medicine under control of the nurse instead of by attendants. The nurse would see that the diet fed the sick was adequate, balanced and vitamin enriched. It costs very little more to serve good food properly prepared compared to other foodbadly selected and improperly served.

All this need not be a big expense - for the departments that make hospital bills so high are the laboratories, surgeries and X-ray departments, and these will not be required. We have a fine building acknowledged to be the best in the state - with an elevator and heating plant. All we need is beds - relatively minor equipment plus the right kind of people trained to give the right service.

Regardless of any money saved should we not do what is our moral obligation to give Vigo County a complete medical care program? And have we no pride in wanting our county home to be licensed like other county homes are in the state? These sick patients in the hospital will justifiably rebel if sent to insanitary, uninviting and unwholesome surroundings, but would not object to be sent to a dignified, self-respecting facility properly managed and supervised. (Note that this is more than what we used to call domiciliary or custodial care - not a boarding house for the sick but a real hospital in the particulars that I have mentioned.) Both Mr Brentlinger of St Anthony's Hospital and Mr Kirk of Union Hospital agree to this. Mr Brentlinger went

with us on the survey we made of the Home this year and he has this to say: "In regard to the unused portions of the County Home a resolution to our mutual problem could be worked out saving both the county and the township money. Hospital wards could be made in at least two of the unused wings of the County Home to accommodate all township and welfare medical patients and convalescent surgical patients, and the county and township would be paying much less for the services."

I am sure that I reflect the views of the members of the Vigo County Medical Society in this presentation.

In the July number of the magazine "Public Welfare in Indiana" by Dr Krag of the U S Public Health Service elaborates on this idea and it is very interesting and instructive.

Remember that this will in no wise supplant or curtail the two major hospitals, the two colored hospitals or the eleven licensed nursing homes. All will be needed and since the doctors approve of our nursing homes they will always see that they are supplied with patients, for they are a definite part of the total picture.

Dr C N Combs
Date: before 1930
Occasion: Public meeting at y.M.C.A. to decide about occupying the unused wing of the County Infirmary for chronic patients.
LAH

My only claim to distinction at this gathering so far as I can judge is that I am the only living person in captivity that has attended every commencement exercise held by this school, beginning with the first one in 1902 - a feat claimed by no other individual and certainly now never can be. Mrs Combs is a close second having missed but three. It seems that our babies were born just before the commencement and she had to stay at home to attend to some very insistent howls for nourishment.

In that time I have necessarily known more or less intimately every one of the graduates. I remember the faces but not the names of all of the Smiths, Jones, Browns, Johnsons and Reeds - including the neices, the daughters and even the grandaughters of graduates. (These notes are to remind me to stay within the 10 minutes allotted to me, as nothing can be more boring than the garrulity of a reminiscent oldster.)

Now this School of Nursing was not founded by the Hospital, but by the doctors, and during its early period there was a double administrative set-up - the hospital run by the Board and the Training School by the doctors who hired and fired all of the faculty nurses - made all rules - taught all the classes except the ones on nursing technic - conducted all commencements and financed its needs.

I spent the summer of 1902 here at the hospital. That was just after the original brick building was erected. The days kept me busy doing the chores while my wvenings were spent on a certain front porch on South 5th St. (Sister Johanna M. Baur was the superintendent then - a woman whom I revered and respected and from her I received my earliest lessons in hospital management. That summer she went to Colorado for two weeks and left me as her locum tenens. As there was plenty of room to spare in those days, I lived in Room 57. Sister Baur was a tiny mite and if you thought I said dynamite you still wouldn't be wrong. She was a whirlwind of energy, keen-minded, incisive and meticulous in detail. Long before we had filing cabinets and Kardex she constructed a multitude of closets with hundreds of homemade cubicles and secret drawers. She was very religious and regarded this place as a missionary outpost. Her mission was not only to heal the bodies but to save the souls. She questioned every one concerning his religious convictions and one morning she accosted old John Byers the mailman and asked him if he was a Christian. John's reply was "No. I am just a damned old mail-man."

Every morning after breakfast we all got down on our knees on the hard floor and had lengthy prayers. (Sister Baur established this hospital and this nursing school on a most capable basis and the foundation she laid had a moral solidity that I hope will never be weakened.) Unfortunately her righteous zeal caused friction and she left in a storm of indignation. Nevertheless this was her child. At that time she thought it was a thankless child, but all through these years she has loved it and prayed for it in the most tender and forgiving manner.

M Miss Martha Breakfield was the only nurse to graduate in the first class - soon to become the untimely victim of pulmonary tuberculosis contracted in training. We used to take advanced cases of TB and I remember an emaciated man who stayed for months in a dark back room with only a north window, coughing and expectorating great quantities of germ laden pus. The nurses did all

the work no matter how menial. The wooden floors had to be scrubbed with a hand brush on hands and knees. One day I found a nurse sitting on the back stairs so entranced in reading a book that she did not see me until I looked over her shoulder. What was the book? "The Physician's Wife." Only two years ago I recalled the incident and I asked a book collector to get me a copy. Printed in 1894 it was almost extinct but I finally succeeded and here it is. Is anyone interested now in reading it? To what avail - The last bachelor M D was Dr Rubin who was so recently married.

During one year I delivered half of all the babies born in the hospital. The year was 1902 and there were just two babies born that year. Elated over my first obstetrical triumph and full of pity for the poor unfortunate girl, I purchased and gave her the layette. She, out of gratitude, gave the name of Charles N to the little (I can't use the word) - infant.

In the fall of 1909 the board employed a man as business administrator. He seemed to be satisfactory and to celebrate his budding success he gave a party on Christman of 1909 to some of the nurses and the interne. The party was in the pharmacy in the basement and in those days all drug stores had bottles labelled Vini Gallici and Spiritus Frumenti. The contents of these bottles diminished in volume during the party and a hilarious time was had by all. When the board heard of it the man was discharged, but they could not find a suitable successor. At least my shortcomings didn't include inebriety so I was given the position until a permanent superintendent could be chosen, which finally happened in 1911 when Frank Sheffler assumed the duties. It would appear that instead of being a foe of intemperance I should be a friend, as it was to that mortal sin I owed an opportunity to study and pursue hospital administration - a love second only to that of my wife and putting my stamp collection a mere third.

Miss Ethel Chisholm arrived late in 1909. She was ubiquitous, omnipresent - was everywhere at the same time and saw everything. Like the mythological Argus who had 100 eyes - while some slept others were awake. She had a hundred eyes. Nothing escaped her notice as many a nurse who tried to evade her could testify. Like Douglas McArthur she was almost theatrical in her studied and dignified poise. Congenial to her closest friends, she kept aloof from the pupil nurses who could approach her only through the strictest of established channels. She expected perfection and was satisfied with nothing short of that unattainable goal. A chart had to be a perfect specimen of calligraphy or it was copied and recopied until every individual letter was so alike in slant and width of stroke that a microscope could not detect the difference. A disciplinarian of the old school her punishments were swift and merciless - albeit with the utmost justice. Many a nurse trained under her has told me that while they feared and almost hated her, yet to their dying day would be grateful for the high degree of nursing skill which she imparted. I doubt if ever since there have been nurses graduated with a superior talent for contributing to the comfort - (mark the word "comfort") - as well as the recovery of the patient - handicapped as they were then by the lack of chemotherapy, antibiotics, and the numerous mechanical and precision gadgets which you now have.

Miss Chisholm, a Canadian citizen, enlisted in the British Army in World War I and served in France. She was recalled after the war and when she left again was almost recalled for a third time, when the school suffered from a quick succession of short term directors.

Sarah Jane Eliot, of sainted memory, was the housekeeper and dietitian. She was a sweet and gentle soul and like St Francis of Assisi, loved the birds and talked with them. She rediscovered the old tow path in her bird hikes, long after most inhabitants had forgotten the canal that paralleled the Wabash River - the tow path being used by the mules that towed the canal boats. One section has now been beautified by the Fort Harrison Country Club.

Miss Mildred Banker was a timid girl but a most conscientious surgical supervisor. We bought dried sheep entrails which she converted into catgut. A porcelain bowl was set in a sand bath and heated by a Bunsen burner. The gut was placed in the bowl and covered with xylol or something like it, with a boiling point of about 300' F, so that at least the product was sterile at the start. It was wound on spools and entrusted to the uncertain mercies of the scrub nurse. As that was before we had rubber gloves it was no wonder we had some not-so-laudable pus.

(These were the immortal three of my early experience: Miss Chisholm, Miss Eliot, Miss Banker, like the three musketeers, Aramis, Athos and Porthos. They didn't call me D'Artagan - but "little brother." I liked the brother part but the adjective 'little' was a bit humiliating.)

My time is up and some of you could better tell of the hardships of nurses, the gradual emancipation from old hidebound customs and mores - the first shorter skirt - the first hair bob - the first chewing gum - the first discard of the hair net - the first cigarette - the first married nurse - the first jewelry - the first lipstick - with all the heated arguments pro and con - the clandestine violations of the old rules - in fact, the battle of Mrs Grundy against progress. And so, I, with all of you, say - Congratulations for the first 50 years and best wishes for the next 50 years.

Dr C N Combs
Date: Dec 12. 1950
Place: Auditorium. Sch. of Nursing
Occasion: Golden Anniversary.

LAH

What are the purposes of a hospital? What is the reason for its existence? I desire to mae a list in the order, as I see it, of importance. First of all in this mackine age there must be in readiness at all times a group of trained workers with special equipment to care for accidents in which anywhere from one to fifty people may need instant care. The Union Hospital for instance has to keep extra nurses, employees, beds and sterile supplies in store in preparation for a major catastrophe that may not happen for years but is bound to dome at intervals in every large city.

Second, to care for the poor when they are sick or hurt, as they are entirely helpless and dependent at such a time.

Third, the same needs apply to people that are not indigent. They pay their bills but cannot pay high prices. Provision is made to give them efficient hospital service at a small fee which they can pay but is still less than cost.

Fourth, to supply private rooms for people able to pay all it costs, and who want to come because the patient is safer in the hospital, or more comfortable or more convenient or for whatever reason.

Fifth, to maintain a school of nursing for the purpose of educating young women to care for the sick. We provide a three year course, with full time teachers, text books, laboratory work leading to membership in one of the finest professions women can adopt.

Sixth, to educate the public by suggestion and example as to the value of rest, relaxation and the proper diet in any disease; as to the value of cleanliness in dealing with wounds and to stand as perpetual warning to the individual to be careful - safety first.

These ideals are common to all hospitals. What have we done in actual performance? Are we a charitable institution worthy of the beneficence of philanthropic citizens who want to help the unfortunate? In 1927 there were 475 free patients treated for a total of 5,928 patient days, on an average of sixteen every day. This was 15% of the total work done. The cost to the hospital was $21,674.70. If it were not for the two hospitals already in Terre Haute, the city would have to build and maintain a city hospital. In lieu of this the city pays each pospital $300.00 per month and the county $100.00 per month. It is plain to be seen that this sum falls far short of paying the bill. Were it not for interest bearing bequests and endowments we could not continue at that rate. 27 percent more of our work is what we call part-pay, denoting patients in rooms containing two or more beds, for which the rate paid is less than cost.

We believe that we have a minimum of abuse in utilizing beds for our charity and part pay patients. These cases are sent in by our doctors and they see to it that we are not imposed upon as they are in larger cities where the Packard parks on the side street while the occupants go in the ward to visit mamma.

Now when hospitals were first built, the sole idea was a refuge for the dying and incurable. They were called asylums and few were expected to emerge alive. Some people still have an abhorence to a hospital which dates back to this original concept. Later on curable cases were included but it

was still limited to the poor, no fee was charged and none expected. It was entirely missionary work of the church.

Forty years ago hospitals began to multiply as glorified boarding-houses for the sick, and only boarding house rates were charged. The modern hospital is a combination hotel, college and hospital. It must provide all the latest remedial devices and diagnostic aids such as X-ray laboratory, chemical, bacteriological, metabolic and dietetic laboratories, operating rooms with a bewildering outlay of complex mechanisms. It must supply everything required for skillful professional care and must also conduct this health factory on a sound business basis. No enterprise can be successful if run on a haphazard policy, and the hospitals finances must be safeguarded by strict budgetary control.

Cost accounting must be done in each department for different units of accomplishment. The exact cost per patient per day, the cost of the operating room for different surgical operations, the cost of raw food per meal, the cost of laundering a given amount of linen, the cost of educating a nurse, all there must be known so as to intelligently regulate the charges.

I have divided the hospital into twelve departments, each a separate sub-administrative unit and still further into sixty different expense accounts. For years back I have the cost in each of these sixty subdivisions per patient per day to the fourth decimal point. By plotting this curve we can predict in the budget for this year just what it will be necessary to spend. It is analagous to the way in which the dining car steward can tell how many people will order apple pie. The projection of past performance making allowances for certain disturbing factors.

Without cost accounting and a budget a hospital can easily become a perennial deficit producer, and exhaust the public's patience by appeals for money. We ask for no money for current expenses but must have aid when planning new buildings. From now on all of our Charity Ball receipts will go into the fund for building a new Nurses' Home. The present home is full, holding about thirty while forty others are housed in two other buildings. Our other need is for bequests to our endowment fund, in any amount from $50.00 un up. This fund now totals $85,000.00 and is being added to every year. The principal cannot be expended and remains as a memorial in perpetuity to the donor and in addition provides means for the care of the needy sick for generations to come.

Who owns this fund? Who owns the Union Hospital? Not the doctors - all they have is the use of a wonderful workshop and the opportunity of doing thousands of dollars worth of gratuitous services every year toward cases. Not the Board of Directors. All they have is no salary and the toil of determining the policies with the chance of plenty blame if anything goes wrong. The hospital is incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana governing eleemosynary institutions incorporated not for profit. No dividends are possible and no profits can accrue.

The property is held by the Union Hospital Association which is composed each year of all individuals who have contributed $5.00 or more to its

support for that year. It has 178 beds of which 20 are bassinets for the new born babies. There are 70 pupil nurses in the school - all high school graduates. 13 graduate nurses on the faculty, 62 employees, and the annual expenditures are over $140,000.00. Aside from rendering service - how is it a financial asset to Terre Haute? Because it draws patients from the surrounding counties and when relatives and friends come to visit they stay at hotels, spend money for food and shopping which otherwise would go elsewhere.

Just for example I read over the addresses of the last 100 patients entering up to yesterday, and 29 were from Clay, Parke, Vermillion and Sullivan counties and Eastern Illinois, while nine more were from the outlying towns of Vigo County. If this proportion of 38% prevailed all through last year, we had 1,368 new patients from other vacalities, who came here and spent here for hospital and doctor bills an amount which I will leave for your own conjecture. Of the $140,000.00, 40% or about $55,000.00 is for the pay roll and that of course is spent here in the city. 33% or about $45,000.00 is for food and that is 99% bought in Terre Haute. $30,000.00 more is spent for coal, gas, water, electricity, telephone, insurance, drugs and linesn, all purchased here at home. Approximately $10,000.00 a year goes out of town for gauze, cotton, ether and catgut, that cannot be purchased to any advantage except from a hospital supply house, and even then we try to purchase through agents living here so that the commission at least will stay in Terre Haute. Salesmen from all over the country will testify that this hospital is hard boiled in spending its income at home. Each year that passes makes us more determined to adhere to this policy for we find that it actually pays. It certainly pays in good will for how long would we have had to trade with Albert Pick or Mandel Bros., to have saved the $25,000.00 that the late Mr Levi gave us, just because we had been his customers.

The Union Hospital believes in Terre Haute and in its future. How else could it have had the audacity to build a structure of eight floors when it had not a cent left to put up the inside partitions in any one of them? That was six years ago and at the even rate of one floor a year we have completed and furnished six of these eight floors. The members of this community - you and you and you have richly rewarded the hospital for having faith in the city and as a result we have a large modern plant which we can boast of through out the state instead of a small annex which we might have had.

Dr C N Combs
Date: January 16 1927
Occasion: Talk to Lions Club Monday noon after which the club presented the hospital with $137.00

LAH

WHAT DOES THE HOSPITAL OWE TO THE ANESTHETIST?

If you could subtract anesthesia from that intricate machine the modern hospital and leave all of the rest of the wonderful progress in medical treatment, in the laboratory, roentgenological and other departments, what would it profit you? Here would be all of this elaborate equipment and the trained personnel, the doors would be open, but few would enter. The hospital would still be that horible torture chamber it was an hundred years ago. The wails of the suffering inmates could not drown the shrieks of the helpless patients manacled to the operating table.

A surgical operation was a page from Torquemada and the Inquisition. Scant wonder that the hospital was a place to be avoided until the last extremity. No wonder that little children playing on the street, fled from it as though it were the abode of the arch-fiend himself.

Even 30 years ago, the induction of ether anesthesia was one of the most harrowing experiences that could come to an individual. The ether saturated cone or Allis Inhaler was suddenly placed upon the face. After the first sample, the patient naturally held his breath until about to give up the ghost. With an involuntary agonizing gasp he finally inhaled the pungent, stifling ether fumes. His outcries were soon muffled and he struggled vainly against the sleep, beset with lurid hallucinations of all the senses. The average patient who survived the ordeal was probably grateful to the surgeon, but he never could quite forgive the man who inflicted the anesthetic.

Those days are happily past in most hospitals, and now as the patient leaves the hospital, it is music to our ears, indeed as soul-satisfying as a Brahm's symphony, to have him testify that his most pleasant remembrances centered about the anesthetic. And why not? The friendly greeting of the anesthetist, the comforting words, the quiet preparation, the few whiffs of a not unpleasant something -- and one asks -- Is it all over? Am I all right?

Can anyone say that robbing the operating room of its fright and torture has not done more than any one other thing to promote the marvellous growth and popularity of the hospitals? They can scareely build them fast enough.

And yet how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a hospital superintendent be so thankless as to forget his debt. I mean the ones who employ salaried non-medical anesthetist technicians. The ones who capitalize the public's confidence, and rubs his hands as he profiteers a few extra dollars to report to his Board of Directors. And that is one of my reasons for saying that a hospital superintendent should be a graduate in medicine, for the lay superintendent too often sees only the commercial advantages in nurse anesthetists. My own position as combined Superintentent and anesthetist may be somewhat unusual, but I hope not anomalous. At least it is fortunate for the anesthesia service of the hospital. This of an M D anesthetist and superintendent offers an attractive field to my notion, and I hope one that will be developed.

It is not possible in very large hospitals, but the bulk of institutions are from 50 to 150 beds, and there should be plenty of openings. The salary of a hospital superintendent is not large but the fees received from the mornings work with private patients contribute the desired increment. The vantage points are two -- it prevents domination of hospital administration by lay minds, and it assures anesthesia its proper recognition and staff representation.

I am using what influence I have at our hospital conventions to speed the day when the American Medical Association will refuse a place on its accredited list, when the American College of Surgeons will refuse a place on its approved list and when the American Hospital Association will forfeit membership to any hospital employing non-medical anesthetists.

Dr C N Combs
Minneapolis
1928

THE HEART OF IT—Dr. Charles S. Combs, left, Terre Haute, and Dr. George R. Daniels, Marion, Ind., examine a model of a human heart being held by Robert Patty, health educator for Indiana Heart Foundation. The three discuss medical matters at the meeting of the Indiana State Medical Association at the Murat Temple in Indianapolis. Dr. Combs was president of the association in 1926 and Dr. Daniels in 1929. TH Trib 10/19/56 A.P. Wirephoto.

Dr. Topping New President Of State Medical Body

TH Trib 10/19/56

At the closing session Thursday of its state convention at the Sheraton-Lincoln Hotel in Indianapolis, Dr. M. C. Topping of Terre Haute was named president-elect of the Indiana State Medical Association.

Dr. Topping will begin his presidency at the next annual meeting. Dr. Elton R. Clarke of Kokomo became president of the association for the next year, succeeding Dr. Walter U. Kennedy of New Castle.

An orthopedic surgeon and known both in the state and nation as one of the best known specialists in surgery of the bone and treatment of bone diseases and injuries, Dr. Topping is connected with Terre Haute families which number many physicians.

The late Dr. M. R. Combs, his grandfather, and Dr. Charles N. Combs, his great-uncle, were incorporators and directors of the Terre Haue Academy of Medicine and Dr. M. R. Combs, was its first president in 1921. Dr. C. N. Combs was president of the Indiana State Medical Association just 30 years ago in 1926.

Lectured At Convention.

At this year's meeting on Tuesday Dr. Topping appeared in a technical capacity, directing and lecturing a course at the Murat Temple on "Common Errors in Treatment of Fractures of the Extremities."

Only 52 years old, the new president-elect of the State Medical Association is a graduate of Garfield High School. He received a B.S. degree at the University of Illinois and his degree of doctor of medicine from the university's medical college at Chicago in 1926. Internship was served at Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara, Calif., before returning to Terre Haute to practice as a partner with the late Dr. A. F. Knoefel. He completed a post-graduate course in orthopedic surgery in 1932 at the New York Post Graduate School.

Membership in many medical and scientific societies are held by Dr. Topping and he has been an officer in a number of them. They are the Vigo County Medical Society, Indiana State Medical Association, Fifth District Medical Society, American Medical Association, Esculapian Society of the Wabash Valley, Terre Haute Academy of Medicine, American Association of Railway Surgeons, the Association of Pennsylvania Railroad Surgeons and the Indiana Bone and Joint Club. In college he was a member of the Omega Beta Pi fraternity.

Aviation Enthusiast.

Dr. Topping also is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Union Hospital staff, which he served as secretary 1933 through 1942 and 1944 through 1948, and president in 1943. He was vice president of the Vigo County Medical Society and the Esculapian Society, secretary of the Terre Haute Academy of Medicine, secretary of the Fifth District Medical Society 1944 through 1948, and president 1949 through 1951.

His local civic services include membership on the Terre Haute Board of Aviation Commissioners to which he was appointed Dec. 31, 1953. Active in aviation for many years, he was the first Terre Haute physician to own and pilot his own plane. He is a past president of the Wabash Valley Pilots Asociation and served as major of the Civil Air Patrol, commanding Squadron 526-1 of Terre Haute.

Dr. Topping's interest embrace a wide field apart from medicine. He is an accomplished amateur violinist and has devoted much time to painting and drawing and in early years considered medical illustration as a career.

Dr. and Mrs. Topping and their children make their home at 152 Monterey avenue.

BY CLIFFORD S. LEE.

SULLIVAN, Ind., Oct. 23.

IN a cosy little cottage about three-quarters of a mile south of Sullivan there sits day by day an aged woman gently swaying to and fro in her comfortable rocker, happily spending the hours as best she may, while members of the family with whom she lives give her every attention, and neighbors drop in occasionally to bid her good cheer. Mrs. Eleanor Combes, now a few days past the century mark and the oldest white woman in the state of Indiana, spends her declining years talking of the pioneer days in the state of which she is a native and in which she has spent her entire life.

During her lifetime she has seen the railroad displace the prairie schooner and the stage coach. She has lived through that period of time in which the steamboat has displaced the sailboat and the canoe. During her lifetime the electric car has displaced the horse car, and she has lived to see the automobile in general use and to know that the aeroplane and the airship are here to stay. She has seen vast forests of stately trees of wildwood and of underbrush give way to waving fields of grain and throbbing commercial centers where the smoke of many factories and from numerous trains that thunder over labyrinths of tracks obscures the horizon. She has lived to see the bear, the deer, the wolf and the wildcat entirely disappear from Indiana. The forests no longer resound with the flutter of wings of myriads of wild fowl; the stalwart red man no longer roams the woods in pursuit of wild game. The forests no longer resound with the blood-curdling war whoops that once chilled the settlers as the savage tribes suddenly descended upon their prey.

The small clearing, once hemmed in by its "snake" fence, has enlarged into miles and miles of clearings, divided into fertile farms by long and almost invisible threads of wire. This aged woman has lived through the administration of every President the country has had from that of James Madison down to William H. Taft. During her lifetime, too, the telephone and the telegraph have bound the country together, the telegraph to be succeeded in a measure by the wireless system now coming into general use. She has seen state after state added to the Union until the country reached westward to the Pacific. She has seen the towns of Sullivan, Carlisle and Merona grow from cross roads into influential little cities. She has seen the state of Indiana wrested from the savage to become one of the foremost states in the Union. But, best of all, she has lived a life worthy of imitation. She stands today at the head of five generations of sturdy Hoosiers and she possesses an immense circle of friends and acquaintances.

Mrs. Combes was born in October, 1809. She does not know the exact date of her birth, but her descendants have figured it out as the eleventh day of the month and it is upon that day that all her relatives gather each year to celebrate her birthday anniversary and bid her another return of the day. The aged lady is a native of Salem, Washington County. Her father, John McGrew, was a native of Pennsylvania. In his early manhood he chose to migrate and he pushed westward until he reached Kentucky. There he met a young woman whom he afterward married and brought to Salem.

There this John McGrew, sturdy young man that he was, received a grant of land from the government and set about to clear it of its trees and underbrush. First he built, with the assistance of his wife, a log cabin, and in that humble home Eleanor McGrew was born. There she lived, always remaining close to her forest home surrounded by its little clearing so she would not suffer at the hands of the Indians and the wild animals which roamed the woods. Subsisting on the most frugal meals, consisting principally of cornbread and the meat of the wild deer, turkeys, wild pigeons and bear, killed by her father in the forests and the fish he caught in the streams, the little girl thrived and grew to womanhood.

There was one brother, James McGrew, who, after he reached manhood, went farther west into Illinois. There were also six sisters, only three of whom, Mrs. Combes, because of her loss of memory in recent years, can now recall. These three sisters, Mollie McGrew, Peggy McGrew and Katie McGrew, married and drifted away. All trace of them has been lost.

Mrs. Combes married Morgan Gambill, a young man of the wilderness and the son of an early Greene County pioneer, when she was 20 years of age. Her father, with his family, had moved from Washington County to Greene County, their farm comprising that strip of ground which is the present site of Dugger, one of the best mining towns in the Hoosier coal fields. Mrs. Combes had resided on the Greene County farm for six years prior to her marriage to Gambill. The young husband received a grant of land from the government and built a log cabin for his bride. A twenty-acre clearing was made and with that as a start the pair entered upon life's journey together.

Nine children were born to the union. The husband and father died in 1856. A few years later Mrs. Gambill was married to William Combes. The second husband has been dead for thirty years. Three children were born to this union, one of whom died in infancy. Of the twelve children born to Mrs. Combes only five survive. Levi Bambill, the eldest, is 74 years of age. He resides on a farm south of Dugger. Mrs. Lucinda Walters, 72, a daughter, lives on a farm near Sullivan. The other surviving children are Wiley Gambill, ex-commissioner of Sullivan County, with whom Mrs. Combes has been making her home for the last three years and who is 66 years of age; Morgan Gambill, 55, living in the old homestead at Dugger, and Mrs. John Mason, 50, who lives on a farm near Dugger. The combined ages of the sons and daughters is 317.

Mrs. Combes has thirty-six grandchildren, fifty great-grandchildren and twenty-four great-great-grandchildren. By the first husband Mrs. Combes's children were: John Gambill, who died of typhoid fever the same week the father was stricken; Hannah Griffin, who died twenty years ago; Lucinda, wife of William Walters; Elizabeth Gambill, who died when 2 years of age; Levi Gambill, Wiley Gambill, Morgan Gambill Jr. and Mary Ann Gambill, wife of Joseph Goodman, who has been dead for twenty-five years. The children by the second husband, William Combes, were William Combes Jr., deceased; William Howard Combes and Ellen, wife of John Mason of Cass.

When each of Mrs. Combes's husbands died she was left with a comfortable income. She continued to reside in Dugger up to three years ago, when she was stricken with grip and was bedfast for seven weeks. It was then that her son, Wiley Gambill, brought her to his home, near Sullivan. For seven years Mrs. Combes had as her companion in her home in Dugger a Mrs. Sarah Murray, who was burned to death two years ago in a fire which destroyed a residence in which she was employed as housekeeper.

Sunday, Oct. 10, relatives and friends to the number of 115 gathered at the home of Wiley Gambill to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mrs. Combes's birth. The aged woman was in fine spirits and chatted pleasantly with her friends and entered heartily into the day's pleasure. I found Mrs. Combes seated in her rocker at her son's home, contented and cheerful. With the exception of a slight deafness and failing memory she bears well her extreme age. She is a remarkably well-preserved woman, and she does not appear to be over 70 years of age, to say the least. She has had "her second eyesight," as she is pleased to call it, and can see comparatively well without the aid of glasses. She refuses to wear spectacles. She maintains a very cheerful disposition, is genuinely witty and is getting practically as much out of life as many women fifty years younger. "Yes, you're a stranger to me," she said, as I made myself known to her. She smiled a sweet, grandmotherly smile when told the object of the visit and in a modest way declared she didn't want to be "written up." Persuasive argument, however, won her over.

When asked what part of Kentucky her mother came from she said: "Well, I don't believe I remember where. I don't even remember her last name. Her first name was Katherine. You see I wasn't born at that time," she added quickly with a chuckle and a merry twinkle of the eye, "and, of course, I am hardly able to talk of things that occurred at that time."

"I do remember seeing the Indians, though," she continued, "both when I was a little girl and after I was married. We never had much trouble with the Indians, for the tribes were friendly in these parts. I kept pretty close to my mother when father was away, because I didn't want the Indians to get me. After I was married it was often necessary for my husband to go to mill at Evansville, or to Vincennes or Merom for supplies. At such times I bolted the doors and remained in the house with the children. Sometimes he would be gone for days and, of course, we were all afraid when the wolves howled at night. There were lots of bears and when the Indians came around I was particularly watchful. I kept a musket within reach all the time. The Indians never bothered us, although they passed and repassed often when going from one section to another.

"Settlers came into the country every once in a while and located, and the bears and the wolves were being killed all the time. Bear meat and deer meat we lived on chiefly in those early days, and for a change we had wild turkey and other fowl. I can hear the wolves now as they howled at night on the hills. It wasn't a very pleasant thing to have wolves, wildcats and panthers prowling about after night.

"I was too young to remember the war of 1812, but I remember distinctly William Henry Harrison's campaign in this state in the early days. I remember that they were trying to get all the settlers into the army at one time, and a lot of soldiers—I think there were eighteen of them—came to my house looking for deserters. They were also drafting men for the army. I told them there was no one there and they went away without searching the house. They wanted to know where we kept the guns, but I got out of it without telling them. Then they went to the home of John Bledsoe, a neighbor living not far from our place, where they searched the place for his son, without finding him.

"I remember seeing the settlers organizing to go to the Mexican war and remember seeing soldiers who were in that war pass through. I also remember the scenes down here when the civil war was being fought, and I can speak also of the war with Spain. I have lived through five wars. Neither of my husbands was a soldier."

Mrs. Combes neither reads nor writes. She says that in the days when she was a girl the people in her locality did not believe in education for women. She is a warm advocate of education for women at the present time, however. Notwithstanding that she has lived for a century in Indiana, in the midst of a most remarkable progress in civilization, Mrs. Combes has never made a trip on a passenger train. She sees several trains pass her home each day, and she says she often wonders where all those people are going. Her children have coaxed and argued and tried in every way possible to get her to board a train, but she will not do so, frankly admitting that she is afraid to ride on one. Notwithstanding that she has lived for three years within three-quarters of a mile of the southern terminal of the Terre Haute-Sullivan interurban line, she has never in her life seen an interurban car. She has never been outside of Sullivan, Washington and Greene Counties, and has never been in a city larger than the seat of government in each of these counties.

She has never seen a street car and she has never seen a steamboat. She is content to remain at home in peace and comfort.

"If I went away," she said, "I'd have to ride on the train, and for that reason I won't go. I've always had too much to do to ride around on the cars anyhow."

Mrs. Combes has never been inside a store in Sullivan. Her second husband helped with the grading for the railroad now known as the E. & T. H., the original road being constructed many years ago. Her first husband, Morgan Gambill, never saw a train. He used oxen, yoked together, to do the plowing and hauling on his farm.

MRS. ELEANOR COMBES

Indiana's oldest white woman.

T. H. STAR Oct. 24, 1909

Mrs. Combes eats but two meals a day, beginning with breakfast and ending with the noon meal. She has done this for many years, and believes it is responsible for her continued good health. "If I eat supper," she said, "I can not sleep at night. Without eating supper I can sleep like a log."

Unlike many pioneer women, she has never used tobacco or snuff. Her two husbands used tobacco and raised all they needed. Her sons have also used tobacco.

The only prominent man Mrs. Combes ever saw was Senator Daniel W. Voorhees.

Mrs. Combes has been a member of the Church of Christ at Antioch for half a century, and up to five years ago she never missed a Sunday at church services. She walked to church every Sunday in the early days, often carrying or leadin her children the full five miles distance the meeting house.

She was known as an expert with loom and the spinning wheel, but ne in her life has she used a sewing machi She contends that she can do better hand than any sewing machine that ever made, and she becomes disgus with the clothing made nowadays machinery every time a rent is to sewed up. She is still able to sew w out the aid of glasses, but it is alw necessary for some one to thread needle for her. She has not been d much sewing or knitting of late.

Mrs. Eleanor Combes, Who Has Just Passed the Century Mark, Has Never Ridden on a Train, Seen a Steamboat or Street Car, or Been Beyond Borders of Sullivan, Washington and Greene Counties---She Recalls Her Childhood Days in a Cabin Surrounded by Indians, Bears and Wolves

DESCENDANTS OF MRS ELEANOR COMBES, ASSEMBLED ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

(LEFT TO RIGHT)

MRS VIRGIL LEWWELLYN AND BABY LUCINDA, WILLIAM WALTERS, JR., MRS. ELEANOR COMBES, MRS WILLIAM WALTERS

Emeline Fairbanks Mem. Library

Combs family

Mrs. S. R. Combs Dies of Illness; Rites on Friday

STC 2-13-64

MRS. STUART R. COMBS

A couragous fight waged against cancer for more than two years by Mrs. Ruth Elizabeth "Betty" Combs, wife of Dr. Stuart R. Combs, of 2620 North Tenth Street, ended at 2:50 p.m. Wednesday at Union Hospital. She last entered the hospital on Sunday. Mrs. Combs was 50 years old.

A resident of Terre Haute since her marriage, with the exception of the World War II years, Mrs. Combs had been active in medical, church, civic, fraternal and social circles, including membership on the board of the Vigo County Cancer Society.

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She was a graduate of the Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music and had studied at Indiana University, where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Her memberships included the Woman's Auxiliary to the Vigo County Medical Society, the First Congregational Church and the Mayflower Guild of the church.

She was on the boards of the Sarah K. Dowling Home, Terre Haute Day Nursery and Torner House and the Senior Board of the Florence Crittenton Home. She also was serving as secretary of the Wabash Valley Lecture Club.

Other memberships included the Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club, Chapter BN, PEO Sisterhood; Tri Kappa, Inactives of the League of Terre Haute, and the Country Club of Terre Haute.

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Besides the husband, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Ellen R. Donovan of West Lafayette; two sons, Ensign Charles S. Combs, Long Beach, Cal., and Stephen M. Combs, a student at Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla.; the father, Charles B. McFadden of Indianapolis, and two sisters, Mrs. William H. Forsythe of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Robert Pruyn of Pompano Beach, Fla.

The body was taken to the Cross Funeral Home. Services will be there at 1 p.m. Friday. The Rev. Louis Gerhardt will officiate. Burial will be in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Friends may call at the funeral home after 2 p. m. Thursday.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

INDIANA ROOM
PAMPHLET FILE

Combs family

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